

House at Russia, (Butler House)
Herkimer Co. N. Y.

HABS 502.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.
District No. 5.

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historical American Buildings Survey
Norman R. Sturgis, District Officer.
353 Broadway Albany, N. Y.

HABS

HOUSE AT RUSSIA (Butler House)
Located on the State Highway
Herkimer County
New York

Owner: Rev. Dr. Stanard Dow Butler.

Date of Erection: Early nineteenth century.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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HOUSE AT RUSSIA; HERKIMER CO., N. Y.

This house was built on the " State Road ", so called because it was constructed by the state thru the medium of a lottery authorized in 1803, to raise \$41,500. This road ran from Johnstown, thru the Black River country, to Sacketts Harbor and was much used for driving cattle and sheep down to Albany. Another pay product was potash, obtained from the burning of wood from the forest clearings. There were a number of taverns along the road which were used by the drovers.

The road was later improved as a military highway, used during the war of 1812, to carry stores from Albany to the Lake Ontario country.

What is known as the village of Russia is a small hamlet in the southern part of the town of Russia^{and} was settled by Samuel Wright who owned the site of the village. A store and tavern was built by Nathan Norton in 1803. The early settlers were from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont.

The town of Russia claims the palm as the location of the place where Walter Butler, the noted Tory raider, was killed.

The names of the original owners is not available, but when the building was being measured there was found a signature which read "Nicholas Fosdick, October 1912." The present owner is the Rev. Dr. Stanard Dow Butler.

The above information is from, "History of Herkimer County," Edited by Geo. A. Harden and Frank H. Willard, D. Mason & Co. Publishers. Syracuse, 1893; and History of Herkimer County, by Nathaniel S. Benton, Published by J. Munsell, Albany, 1856.

David S. Dobson,
Author

Reviewed 1936. H.C.F.